

26:033
Spring 2010

Philosophy and Human Nature: Spring 2010
Discussion Sections: 04 (5 EPB) & 07 (10 EPB)

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Course Description:

This is a *discussion* section for Philosophy and Human Nature. As such you are expected to come to class prepared to *discuss* various issues that arise out of both the readings and the MW lectures (this means you should come to class having already *carefully* read and thought about the assigned readings). I want to stress that I will NOT lecture, so be prepared to actually talk to one another. Talking with one other will not only help you understand the material but it will also make the class more enjoyable. This course fulfills the Historical Perspectives GE category.

Course Requirements:

- 2 Writing Assignments (approximately 2-3 pages) – 15% (each) of the final grade
 - 1st assignment distributed 02/12/2010 and due 02/19/2010
 - 2nd assignment distributed 04/09/2010 and due 04/16/2010
 - I reserve the right to use www.turnitin.com
 - You *must* submit your term paper both in hardcopy and through the drop box on ICON by the due date
- Pop Quizzes – 10% of final grade
- Midterm Exam (03/01/2010) – 25% of final grade
- Final Exam (05/10/2010 at 2:15 pm) – 35% of final grade

Note: Plagiarism will result in automatic failure. “+” and “-“ grades will be used. Participation (in the discussion section) and improvement can help your grade.

Required Materials:

The readings will be posted on the ICON site for lecture.

Course Outline:

I. Humans and Other Animals

- a) Descartes
 - from *Discourse on Method*, Part Five (1637)
 - from ‘Objections and Replies, Sixth Set of Replies’ (1641)
 - from ‘To More, 5 February 1649’
 - from ‘To the Marquess of Newcastle, 23 November 1646’
 - from ‘To Reneri for Pollot, April or May 1638’
- b) Russell, “Analogy”, from *Human Knowledge: Its Scope and Limits* (1948)
- c) Singer, “All Animals are Equal”, from *Animal Liberation* (1975)

II. Personal Identity and Immortality

- a) Locke, selection from “Of Identity”, from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690)
- b) Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality* (1978)

III. Freedom and Responsibility

- a) Hume, “Of liberty and necessity”, from *A Treatise of Human Nature* (1739-40)
- b) Frankfurt, “Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person”, from *The Journal of Philosophy* (1971)

IV. That Evil that Humans Do

- a) Wilson, “Thomas Jefferson and the Character Issue”, from *The Atlantic Monthly* (1992)
- b) Wolf, “Sanity and the Metaphysics of Responsibility”, from *Responsibility, Character, and the Emotions* (1987)
- c) Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Edward Coles (1814)
- d) Butler, “Sermon X: Upon Self-Deceit”, from *Fifteen Sermons* (1726)

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Policy and Procedures

(NOTE: These CLAS policy statements have been summarized from the web pages of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.)

Administrative Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administration home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall or see the CLAS Student Academic Handbook [www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/index.shtml]

CLAS Final Examination Policies

Final exams may be offered only during finals week. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. Students should not ask their instructor to reschedule a final exam since the College does not permit rescheduling of a final exam once the semester has begun. Questions should be addressed to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum.

Academic Fraud

Plagiarism and any other activities that result when students present work that is not their own are academic fraud. Academic Fraud is a serious matter and is reported to the departmental DEO and DEOs decide on appropriate consequences at the departmental level while the Associate Dean enforces additional consequences at the collegiate level. See the Student Academic Handbook.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold the mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment at www.uiowa.edu/~cod/policies/sexual-harassment-guide/index.html for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over (Operations Manual, Part IV, 16. See items e, h, and i.)